

P23682.A01

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant : Hiroshi NOMURA
Appln. No. : 10/646,872
Filed : August 25, 2003
For : A LENS BARREL INCORPORATING A ROTATABL RING
Group Art Unit: 2872
Examiner: Not Assigned yet

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir :

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98, Applicant hereby calls the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 58-145930, published on August 31, 1983, together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,525,050 to OHASHI, issued on June 25, 1985;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 61-69002, published on April 9, 1986, together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,643,555 to WAKABAYASHI, issued on February 17, 1987;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 61-270737, published on December 1, 1986, together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,721,972 to WAKABAYASHI, issued on January 26, 1988;

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Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 63-149629, published on June 22, 1988, together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 4,792,822 to AKIYAMA et al., issued on December 20, 1988;

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 64-34623, published on March 2, 1989, together with an English language translation of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 6-18777, published on January 28, 1994, together with an English language translation of the same;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 7-191249, published on July 28, 1995, together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 5,818,647 to NISHIO et al., issued on October 6, 1998;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-109203, published on April 23, 1999, together with English patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,031,998 to SHONO, issued on February 29, 2000;

U.S. Patent No. 4,451,129 to IKARI et al., issued on May 29, 1984;

U.S. Patent No. 4,643,554 to OGAWA, issued on February 17, 1987;

U.S. Patent No. 4,771,303 to MATSUMOTO et al., issued on September 13, 1988;

U.S. Patent No. 4,887,107 to NAKAMURA et al., issued on December 12, 1989;

U.S. Patent No. 5,136,324 to TSUBOI et al., issued on August 4, 1992;

U.S. Patent No. 5,765,049 to HASE et al., issued on June 9, 1998;

U.S. Patent No. 5,832,326 to TANAKA, issued on November 3, 1998; and

U.S. Patent No. 6,366,323 to SHONO, issued on April 2, 2002.

Applicant respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the patent documents and enclosed translations. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.491(b), Applicant notes that the instant application was filed after June 30, 2003, and thus, copies of the above-mentioned U.S. patents are not attached hereto. Copies of the above-noted foreign (i.e., Japanese) documents are attached and all of the above-mentioned documents have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicant with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicant also bring to the Examiner's attention the following copending and commonly assigned patent applications:

Initially, Applicant notes that the instant application is one of 27 (together with U.S.S.N.'s 10/646,748; 10/646,824; 10/646,711; 10/646,735; 10/646,836; 10/646,871; 10/646,908; 10/646,788; 10/646,724; 10/646,736; 10/646,882; 10/646,884; 10/646,907; 10/646,835; 10/646,723; 10/646,712; 10/646,698; 10/646,811; 10/646,771; 10/646,860; 10/646,895; 10/646,772; 10/646,812; 10/646,859; 10/646,759; and 10/646,800) co-pending, commonly assigned patent applications, which were all filed on the same date and contain related subject matter. However, Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the following five of the above-listed applications, which are believed to be of particular relevance to the present application. Only copies of these applications are attached hereto but should the Examiner so request, Applicants will provide copies of any or all of the remaining 21 co-pending applications.

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U.S. Patent Application No. 10/646,748 to NOMURA, entitled "A Lens Barrel Incorporating a Rotatable Ring," filed on August 25, 2003;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/646,824 to NOMURA, entitled "Lens Barrel," filed on August 25, 2003;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/646,711 to NOMURA, entitled "A Lens Barrel Incorporating the Rotation Transfer Mechanism," filed on August 25, 2003;

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/646,735 to NOMURA, entitled "A Lens Barrel Incorporating the Advancing/Retracting Mechanism", filed on August 25, 2003; and

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/646,836 to NOMURA, entitled "Lens Barrel", filed on August 25, 2003.

Further, Applicant also brings the following copending and commonly assigned patent application to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/368,342 to NOMURA et al., entitled "Retractable Lens System and Method of Retracting a Retractable Lens System," filed on February 20, 2003.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), copies of the above-mentioned six U.S. patent applications are attached hereto. However, the Examiner is also requested to review the file wrapper of these U.S. patent applications at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office and the references of record, if any, cited therein.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application, and thus, no fee is necessary to ensure consideration of this statement. However, if an Office Action has issued and is crossing in the mail with this statement, the Commissioner is

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hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 19-0089 any fee necessary to ensure consideration of the submitted materials.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
Hiroshi NOMURA

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Form PTO-1449		U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office							Atty. Docket No. P23682		Serial No. 10/646,872			
									Applicant Hiroshi NOMURA					
									Filing Date August 25, 2003		Group 2872			
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT (Use several sheets if necessary)														
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS														
EXAMINER <i>OPIE SCOTT</i> <i>JAN 20 2004</i> <i>PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE</i>	INITIAL	DOCUMENT NUMBER					DATE	NAME			CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE	
		4	5	2	5	0		5	0	OHASHI				
		4	6	4	3	5	5	5	02/17/87	WAKABAYASHI				
		4	7	2	1	9	7	2	01/26/88	WAKABAYASHI				
		4	7	9	2	8	2	2	12/20/88	AKIYAMA et al.				
		5	8	1	8	6	4	7	10/06/98	NISHIO et al.				
		6	0	3	1	9	9	8	02/29/00	SHONO				
		4	4	5	1	1	2	9	05/29/84	IKARI et al.				
		4	6	4	3	5	5	4	02/17/87	OGAWA				
		4	7	7	1	3	0	3	09/13/88	MATSUMOTO et al.				
		4	8	8	7	1	0	7	12/12/89	NAKAMURA et al.				
		5	1	3	6	3	2	4	08/04/92	TSUBOI et al.				
		5	7	6	5	0	4	9	06/09/98	HASE et al.				
		5	8	3	2	3	2	6	11/03/98	TANAKA				
		6	3	6	6	3	2	3	04/02/02	SHONO				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS														
		DOCUMENT NUMBER					DATE	COUNTRY			CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO	
		5	8	1	4	5	9	3	0	08/31/83	JAPAN			
		6	1	-	6	9	0	0	2	04/09/86	JAPAN			
		6	1	2	7	0	7	3	7	12/01/86	JAPAN			
		6	3	1	4	9	6	2	9	06/22/88	JAPAN			
		6	4	-	3	4	6	2	3	03/02/89	JAPAN			X
		6	-	1	8	7	7	7	7	01/28/94	JAPAN			X
		7	-	1	9	1	2	4	9	07/28/95	JAPAN			
		1	1	1	0	9	2	0	3	04/23/99	JAPAN			
EXAMINER										DATE CONSIDERED				
*EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.														